



Office

Amendment/Response

Serial No. 09/534,474

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corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said at least three shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said at least three shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user, wherein one of said rows includes selected ones of said letter keys arranged to spell out at least three, consecutively arranged multi-letter words when read from left to right and wherein both the tab and backspace keys are centrally located within the letter keys and located in a row above the home row.

13. (Thrice Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:  
a base having an upper side; and  
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least three shift keys for establishing capital letters in combination with the letter keys, and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said at least three shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said at least three shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user.

Kindly add new claims 21 and 22 as follows:

21. The keyboard according to claim 8, wherein said same row is located directly above the home row.

22. The keyboard according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the multi-letter words is a four letter word and another of the multi-letter words is at least a three letter word.--